



Alain Mérieux Organizes his Succession at the Head of bioMérieux, Entrusting Jean-Luc Bélingard with the Role of *Président Directeur Général*

Marcy l'Etoile (France) - October 26, 2010 - The bioMérieux Board of Directors today approved Alain Mérieux's proposal to hand over his responsibilities as *Président Directeur Général* of bioMérieux to Jean-Luc Bélingard, effective January 1, 2011.

In a rapidly changing international and scientific environment for *in vitro* diagnostics, Alain Mérieux is taking measures to ensure his succession and the future of bioMérieux, in accordance with the principles he has upheld since he first established the company.

A member of bioMérieux's Board of Directors since 2006, Jean-Luc Bélingard brings an expertise acquired in world-class pharmaceutical and biological groups and an internationally-recognized experience in diagnostics. Sharing Alain Mérieux's bio-industrial vision, his priority will be the Company strategy and research, and he will be of invaluable support to the management teams.

The Board of Directors has also confirmed the appointment of Alexandre Mérieux as *Directeur Général Délégué* and Stéphane Bancel as Chief Executive Officer. As such, Stéphane Bancel will continue to lead the Management Committee.

Alain Mérieux will remain fully engaged in overseeing the future of the company he created in 1963, as a member of bioMérieux's Board of Directors and as Chairman of the Human Resources Committee and the Strategy Committee. As part of the Company's international development plan, and due to the close, long-standing ties that Alain Mérieux has with China, he will also become Chairman of bioMérieux China.

Furthermore, Alain Mérieux will continue as *Président Directeur Général* of Institut Mérieux, the family holding company that controls bioMérieux, Transgene, in the field of immunotherapy, and Silliker, in the area of nutrition and health. He will also continue as President of Fondation Mérieux, the family's non-profit foundation, dedicated to the fight against infectious diseases in developing countries. These two entities have changed significantly over the last few years and must now meet increasingly extensive and complex public health challenges.

Alongside Alain Mérieux, Jean-Luc Bélingard will also take on the role of Vice President of Institut Mérieux.

"I have made my decision with serenity and in full agreement with Alexandre and the Board of Directors, to ensure the future of a family-owned group that I have taken to the highest level on the global scene, with the support of my teams, with constancy and determination," declared Alain Mérieux. *"I have absolute confidence in Jean-Luc Bélingard. He has been a member of the Board for many years and has intimate knowledge of the company and its challenges. Thanks to his particularly rich career in world-class biological and pharmaceutical groups, he benefits from an internationally-recognized experience in diagnostics. Sharing our long-term bio-industrial vision, Jean-Luc will be of invaluable support to Alexandre in the years to come."*

Jean-Luc Bélingard added, *"I am proud to contribute to the future of a world leader, which is part of the French entrepreneurial tradition. I am very pleased to join bioMérieux and Institut Mérieux and intend to carry out my mission in accordance with the vision of medicine and humanism of the Mérieux family, with whom I have had the privilege of working."*

About Jean-Luc Bélingard

Jean-Luc Bélingard, 62, is a graduate of HEC (France) and holds an MBA from Cornell University (United States). He has over 36 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, in particular with Merck & Co and Roche, where he was a member of the Group's Executive Committee and CEO of Roche Diagnostics. In 1999, Jean-Luc Bélingard joined the Pierre Fabre Group as General Manager and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors. Since January 2002, Jean-Luc Bélingard has been Chairman and CEO of the Ipsen Group, an innovative global pharmaceutical group present in several specialty therapeutic areas (oncology, neurology, endocrinology and hematology).

Jean-Luc Bélingard is also administrator of the ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche – French Research Agency), NicOx, Laboratory Corporation of America (USA), Celera Genomics (USA) and bioMérieux since 2006.

About bioMérieux

Advancing Diagnostics to Improve Public Health

A world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics for over 45 years and part of the Institut Mérieux Group, bioMérieux is present in more than 150 countries through 39 subsidiaries and a large network of distributors. In 2009, revenues reached €1.223 billion with 85% of sales outside of France.

bioMérieux provides diagnostic solutions (reagents, instruments, software) which determine the source of disease and contamination to improve patient health and ensure consumer safety. Its products are used for diagnosing infectious diseases and providing high medical value results for cancer screening and monitoring and cardiovascular emergencies. They are also used for detecting microorganisms in agri-food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.

bioMérieux is listed on the NYSE Euronext Paris market (Symbol: BIM – ISIN: FR0010096479). Other information can be found at www.biomerieux.com.

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